



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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**First International Pledging Conference for the Implementation of
the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention**

Geneva, 2 March 2016

Madame Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express my appreciation to the Chilean Presidency for this timely initiative in convening the first pledging conference. Thailand is heartened by the presence of States Parties and many members of the mine action community gathering here to reaffirm our strong commitments to the realisation of a zero-victim and mine-free world for all.

As a mine-affected state and one of the earliest States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, Thailand has demonstrated our strong commitment to the humanitarian objective of the Convention by our continued efforts in fulfilling our obligations. We remain firmly committed to our task to clear all landmines from our soil, to assist mine victims, and to educate younger generations about its danger.

Madame Chairperson,

The Implementation Support Unit (ISU) plays a crucial role in the implementation of the obligations under the Convention. Its support, both technical and administrative, is indispensable for States Parties, in particular Thailand and those still in the stage of implementing their mine clearance and victim assistance obligations. We benefit tremendously from the work of ISU both as a State Party and as a member of the Convention's Coordinating Committee on Victim Assistance which we are honoured to serve as current chair.

In this connection, we believe it is appropriate for States Parties to show our ownership by helping solve the budgetary challenge currently faced by the ISU.

Madame Chairperson,

Although a developing country, Thailand is pleased to announce that we will voluntarily contribute 10,000 (Ten Thousand) Swiss Francs annually spread over 4 years to the budget of the ISU, starting this year in corresponding to the 4-year work plan adopted by the Meeting of States Parties last December.

We hope that collective contributions announced and to be announced by States Parties in this conference will bring us closer to a mine-free world by 2025 as aspired by the Maputo Action Plan.

Apart from this financial contribution, Madam Chairperson, I should also add that Thailand sees the importance of sharing our experiences and good practices with other mine-affected states. The Thailand Mine Action Centre has been organising mine action training courses for delegations from our neighbouring countries for the last three years. In 2015, we also conducted trainings on emergency medical service provision for those affected by landmine and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) detonations for both military personnel and local NGOs in Thailand and our neighbouring countries. We therefore wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm our intention to continue this tradition of cooperation and assistance in mine action.

Madame Chairperson,

I wish to conclude by echoing your call to all States Parties to support the work of the ISU by means of financial contributions as a sustainable solution to this problem.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson.

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